



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

***Raised Bill No. 5134***

LCO No. 1402

\* \_\_\_\_ HB05134HS \_\_\_\_ 031408 \_\_\_\_ \*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
CABINET.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-16s of the 2008 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

4 (a) The Commissioners of Education and Social Services shall  
5 develop an agreement to define the duties and responsibilities of their  
6 departments concerning school readiness programs. The  
7 commissioners shall consult with other affected state agencies and  
8 with the Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The agreement shall  
9 include, but not be limited to, a multiyear interagency agreement to  
10 establish and implement an integrated school readiness plan.  
11 Functions to be described and responsibilities to be undertaken by the  
12 two departments shall be delineated in the agreement.

13 (b) (1) There shall be an Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The  
14 cochairpersons of the cabinet shall be the Governor, or the Governor's  
15 designee, and the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's

16 designee. The cabinet shall consist of the Secretary of the Office of  
 17 Policy and Management or the secretary's designee, the Comptroller or  
 18 the Comptroller's designee, the Commissioners of Social Services,  
 19 Higher Education, Public Health, Children and Families, Mental  
 20 Health and Addiction Services and Developmental Services or the  
 21 commissioners' designees, the cochairpersons of each of the joint  
 22 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 23 matters relating to education and human services or the  
 24 cochairpersons' designees, the executive director of the Commission on  
 25 Children, or the director's designee, [and] the director of the Office of  
 26 Workforce Competitiveness, or the director's designee, the executive  
 27 director of the Children's Trust Fund, or the director's designee, the  
 28 Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee, the executive  
 29 director of the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority,  
 30 or the director's designee, one person representing a local or regional  
 31 school readiness council appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
 32 Senate, [and] a representative of the Connecticut Head Start  
 33 Association appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
 34 two persons representing parent organizations, one each appointed by  
 35 the majority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a  
 36 representative of the Connecticut Academy of Pediatrics and a  
 37 representative of Torrington Child Care Collaborative, Inc., each  
 38 appointed by the Governor. The Department of Education shall  
 39 provide administrative services to the Early Childhood Education  
 40 Cabinet and the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy  
 41 Council established pursuant to Executive Order No. 13, issued by  
 42 Governor M. Jodi Rell, on February 7, 2006.

43 (2) Within available appropriations, the Early Childhood Education  
 44 Cabinet shall (A) advise the Commissioner of Education on policies  
 45 and initiatives to meet the goals established in section 10-16o, (B) no  
 46 later than July 1, 2008, begin a state-wide longitudinal evaluation of the  
 47 school readiness program, in consultation with the Department of  
 48 Social Services and the Department of Education, that examines the  
 49 educational progress of children from prekindergarten programs to

50 grade three, inclusive, (C) develop budget requests for the early  
51 childhood program, and (D) promote consistency of quality and  
52 comprehensiveness of early childhood services.

53 (c) On or before January 1, 2008, the commissioners shall adopt  
54 assessment measures of school readiness programs for use by such  
55 programs in conducting their annual evaluations pursuant to section  
56 10-16q of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes. The  
57 commissioners may adopt the assessment measures used for Head  
58 Start programs.

59 (d) (1) Not later than December 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the  
60 Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall develop and implement an  
61 accountability plan for early child education services. The plan shall  
62 identify and define appropriate population indicators and program  
63 and system measures of the readiness of children to enter  
64 kindergarten. Not later than December 31, 2008, and annually  
65 thereafter, the cabinet shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
66 section 11-4a, on the measures implemented in accordance with this  
67 subdivision to the Office of Policy and Management and to the joint  
68 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
69 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
70 education, human services and higher education and employment  
71 advancement.

72 (2) As part of the plan implemented pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
73 this subsection, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet, in  
74 consultation with the Department of Education and the Office of Policy  
75 and Management, shall consider the development of data sharing  
76 agreements between state agencies and shall analyze whether the data  
77 can be combined to assess the progress of children toward school  
78 readiness.

79 (3) Providers of early childhood education that receive state funding  
80 shall employ the program measures developed pursuant to  
81 subdivision (1) of this subsection to evaluate the effectiveness of their

82 services. Not later than June 30, 2009, and annually thereafter, each  
83 such provider shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
84 11-4a, the results of such evaluation to the Early Childhood Education  
85 Cabinet.

86 (e) The Early Childhood Education Cabinet established under this  
87 section shall develop minimum standards and a range of higher  
88 standards of quality for all early care and education programs  
89 receiving state funding. Not later than December 31, 2008, and  
90 annually thereafter, the cabinet shall report, in accordance with the  
91 provisions of section 11-4a, on the plan developed in accordance with  
92 this subsection to the joint standing committees of the General  
93 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and  
94 the budgets of state agencies, education, human services and higher  
95 education and employment advancement.

96 (f) The Early Childhood Education Cabinet established under this  
97 section shall, in consultation with the Office of Workforce  
98 Competitiveness, develop a quality workforce development plan for  
99 school readiness. Such plan shall explicitly address how to meet the  
100 requirements of subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the 2008  
101 supplement to the general statutes through a dual approach of: (1)  
102 Supporting the workforce in obtaining required degrees and  
103 credentials; and (2) encouraging students in institutions of higher  
104 education to pursue degrees in early childhood education. Not later  
105 than December 31, 2008, and annually thereafter, the cabinet shall  
106 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the plan  
107 developed in accordance with this subsection to the joint standing  
108 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
109 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education,  
110 human services and higher education and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2008	10-16s

<b><i>KID</i></b>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	HS
<b><i>HS</i></b>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>	